

weight of the composition, preferably at least 5% or 10% by weight, advantageously not exceeding 30% by weight.

7. (Amended) A powder coating composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the stabilising additive comprises at least one silicate material selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) materials obtainable by admixture or, preferably, reaction of silica or a silicate with a compound of a trivalent metal; and
- (b) naturally occurring or synthetic metal silicates.

10. (Amended) A powder coating composition as claimed in claim 7, wherein the trivalent metal in embodiment (a) is chromium, iron or aluminium, especially aluminium.

11. (Amended) A powder coating composition as claimed in claim 7, wherein the silicate in embodiment (b) is a silicate of a trivalent metal, especially chromium, iron or aluminium, more especially aluminium.

12. (Amended) A powder coating composition as claimed in claim 7 in which the compound of a trivalent metal in embodiment (a) is a phosphate, fluoride, silicofluoride, chloride, sulphate or alkane carboxylate.

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13. (Amended) A powder coating composition as claimed in claim 7, wherein

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A the silica in embodiment (a) is amorphous silica or a precursor thereof.

14. (Amended) A powder coating composition as claimed in claim 7 wherein the stabilising additive, or a silica or silicate used in embodiment (a), is surface-modified by ion exchange.

16. (Amended) A powder coating composition as claimed in claim 14, modified in that the stabilising additive comprises, or is derived from, silica or alumina which has been surface-modified as defined in that claim, preferably in combination with zinc oxide.

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A 17. (Amended) A powder coating composition as claimed in claim 7, wherein the ratio of silicon to metal atom is in the range of from 0.2 to 30 : 1, advantageously at least 0.5 : 1, 1.5 : 1, 2.5 : 1 or 3.5 : 1, preferably not exceeding 20: 1, 15: 1 or 10: 1.

18. (Amended) A powder coating composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the stabilising additive comprises a metal phosphate or a metal borate, the phosphate advantageously being an orth.-phosphate, hydrogen phosphate or polyphosphate, preferably an ortho-phosphate.

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A 23. (Amended) A powder coating composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the stabilising additive has a content of stabilising anions, advantageous phosphate ions, capable of dissolving in the presence of water.

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24. (Amended) A powder coating composition as claimed in, claim 1 wherein the stabilising additive comprises an inorganic material.

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26. (Amended) A powder coating composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the stabilising additive is incorporated by post-blending.

28. (Amended) A powder coating composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the total content of metallic pigment(s) and/or other non-film-forming additive(s) incorporated by post-blending does not exceed 10% by weight, based on the weight of the composition without the pigment(s) and additive(s).

29. (Amended) A powder coating composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the proportion of stabilising additive(s) incorporated before and/or during homogenisation of the composition is in the range of from 0.5 to 50% by weight, based on the total weight of the composition, for example at least 1%, 5% or 10% by weight and not exceeding 20%, 30% or 40% by weight.

30. (Amended) A powder coating composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the particle size of the or each stabilising additive or component thereof is up to 25 microns, preferably no more than 10 microns, more especially from 2.5 to 7.5 microns.

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31. (Amended) A powder coating composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the particle size of any zinc oxide included in the stabilising additive is in the range of from 0.1 to 10 microns.

32. (Amended) A powder coating composition as claimed in claim 1, which is a thermosetting system.

34. (Amended) A powder coating composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the metallic pigment is a coated material.

38. (Amended) A powder coating composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the metallic pigment is carried in a polymer or plasticiser which is compatible with the film-forming polymer.

39. (Amended) A powder coating composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the proportion of film-forming polymer (and curing agent where appropriate) is in the range of from 25 to 99.5% by weight, preferably from 40 to 98% by weight.

40. (Amended) A process for forming a coating on a substrate, in which a composition as claimed in claim 1 is applied to the substrate by a powder coating process resulting in particles of the composition adhering to the substrate, and forming the adherent particles into a continuous coating over at least part of the substrate.

42. (Amended) A coated substrate obtained by a process as claimed in claim 40.